

INTERPRETATIONS

Hitler and the origins of the Second World War

This revision activity works best if you do it with a friend, and talk about it as you do it.

Choose a who-to-blame thesis. Imagine you are a historian who supports this thesis. Cut out the 'event cards' and construct a timeline which includes *only* the events which support your thesis. Describe your choices to a friend, and explain how they fit the thesis and appear to prove the blame.

Which thesis best fits the facts?

<p>WHO-TO-BLAME THESIS: Hitler systematically caused a war</p>
<p>WHO-TO-BLAME THESIS: German anger at the Treaty of Versailles</p>
<p>WHO-TO-BLAME THESIS: A consequence of the failure of the League</p>

<p>1924 In <i>Mein Kampf</i>, Hitler promises to destroy Versailles, unite with Austria, conquer Russia and destroy the Jews</p>	<p>1931 Japan invades Manchuria</p>
<p>1933 Japan leaves the League and invades Jehol</p>	<p>1933 Hitler withdraws from the League's disarmament conference, demanding parity of armies</p>

<p>1933 Hitler leaves the League</p>	<p>1935 Mussolini invades Abyssinia</p>
<p>1935 Hitler holds a huge rearmament rally and introduces conscription</p>	<p>1935 Anglo-German Naval Agreement; Germany to have a navy one-third the tonnage of Britain's</p>
<p>1935 The Saar plebiscite: the Saarlanders vote to become part of Nazi Germany</p>	<p>1936 Remilitarisation of the Rhineland</p>
<p>1937 Chamberlain becomes prime minister of Britain – he begins the policy of appeasement</p>	<p>1937 Spanish fascist leader Franco conquers Spain. Hitler uses the Spanish Civil War to try out his bombers (Guernica)</p>
<p>1937 Axis alliance (Anti-Comintern Pact) – Germany, Italy and Japan</p>	<p>March 1938 Anschluss with Austria</p>
<p>September 1938 Munich: Hitler demands the Sudetenland, and Chamberlain gives it to him</p>	<p>November 1938 <i>Kristallnacht</i>: Nazis start to openly persecute the Jews</p>
<p>March 1939 Hitler occupies Czechoslovakia at the invitation of the fascist Czech President Hácha</p>	<p>August 1939 Danzig crisis; Hitler demands Danzig and the Polish Corridor</p>
<p>August 1939 Nazi–Soviet Pact</p>	<p>1 September 1939 Hitler invades Poland</p>